Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 15

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Rain slowed field activities in most areas of the state last week. Some areas in the central and east central regions received heavy rain, hail and strong winds. Flooding has occurred along low lying areas of some river bottom fields. The best area for getting fieldwork accomplished was in the southern regions of the state. Much of the soil tillage has been completed either last fall or this spring. Soil moisture improved and spring growth of pastures and forage crops improved.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

Fieldwork continues to advance ahead of normal in most regions of the state. There were 3.7 **days** suitable for fieldwork. Three percent of the **corn** acreage is planted compared with 4 percent last year and 2 percent for the 5-year average. Most of the corn planted is in the southwestern counties. A few fields of **soybeans** have been planted. Spraying of chemicals and spreading of fertilizer continued where soil conditions permitted use of heavy equipment. Other activities during the week included hauling grain to market, applying anhydrous ammonia, preparing equipment, purchasing supplies, cleaning fence rows, ditching, spreading lime and hauling manure.

Thirty-five percent of the winter wheat acreage is **jointed**, on par with average, but behind the 60 percent last year at this time. Wheat condition showed marked improvement from a week earlier. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 79 percent good to excellent compared with 75 percent a year ago at this time.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 9 percent excellent, 56 percent good, 29 percent fair, 5 percent poor and 1 percent very poor. Rain and warmer temperatures have spurred pasture and forage crop growth and development. **Hay** supplies are rated 1 percent very short, 4 percent short, 82 percent adequate and 13 percent surplus. Livestock remain in mostly good condition. Calving and lambing are active.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Planted	3	1	4	2
Winter Wheat Jointed	35	16	60	35

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	5	29	56	9
Winter Wheat 2001	0	3	18	65	14
Winter Wheat 2000	1	3	21	57	18

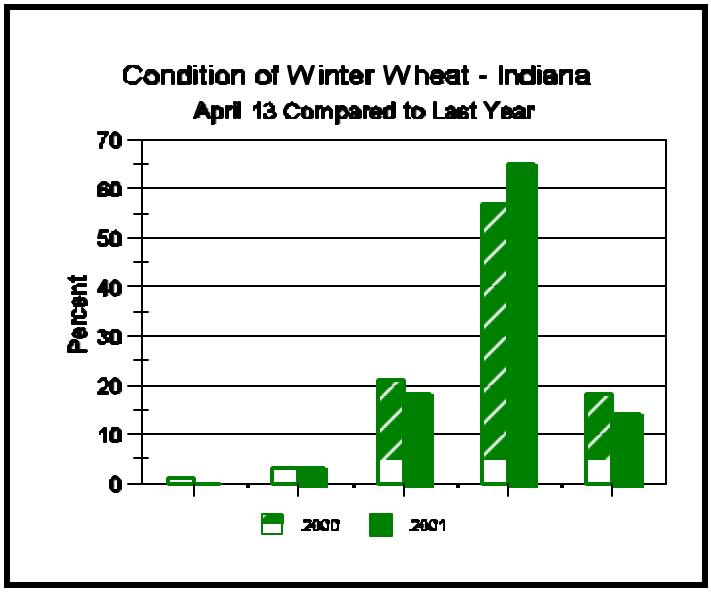
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

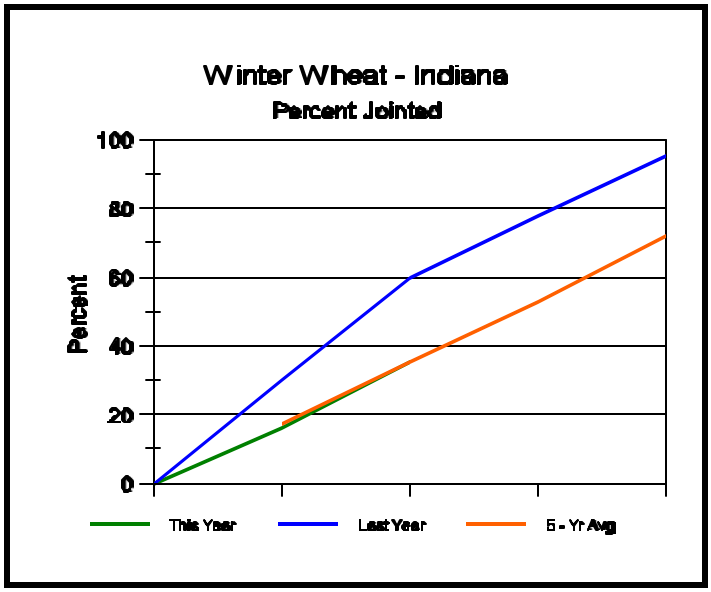
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	6	16
Short	8	22	33
Adequate	72	66	45
Surplus	18	6	6
Subsoil			
Very Short	4	7	32
Short	19	23	42
Adequate	71	66	24
Surplus	6	4	2
Days Suitable	3.7	5.7	4.5

CONTACT INFORMATION

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://www.nass.usda.gov/in/index.htm

Crop Progress





Other Agricultural Comments And News

Tips For Corn Planter Tune-ups

The days are getting longer, the sunshine is becoming more plentiful and temperatures are slowly rising. That can only mean that corn planters will soon be running in fields across Indiana. If you haven't taken the time to go over your planter or have it inspected and serviced by your local dealer, please take the time to do so before planting begins.

Several seed companies plus a number of planter dealers offer planter unit testing using one of several planter test stands on the market. One of the more popular test stands being used is called the Meter Max™, manufactured by Precision Planting™ (<http://precisionplanting.com/>). This type of planter test stand not only measures the accuracy of seeding rate, but can also give you an idea of the uniformity of the seed drop by virtue of the seed dropping onto a horizontal seed belt.

Here are some general guidelines and tips for planter maintenance and adjustments.

- Clean the planter inside and out. This should have been done at the end of last year's planting season before the planter was 'put to bed' for the off-season. Check for old seed left in the hoppers, mouse nests, and anything else that may interfere with the operation of the seed meter or seed drop tubes.
- Check and replace all worn out parts.
- Ensure that coulters and disc openers are aligned accurately.
- Replace worn seals and check trueness of fit of seed drum (Case IH).
- Adjust or replace worn disc openers.
- For finger-pickup type planters, check finger-pickup backplates for rust buildup, seed treatment residues, and worn down 'dimples'. Check and adjust finger tension.
- Check condition of seed conveyor belt. Age + seed treatment = brittleness.
- Replace worn chains. Lubricate or replace chain links.
- Inflate tires to their correct pressure.
- Clean seed tubes and monitor sensors to ensure accurate monitoring of seed flow.
- Replace seed tubes if excessively worn at bottom.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday April 15, 2001

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	April 1, 2001 thru April 15, 2001				
								Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	78	40	56	+9	1.02	4		1.80	-0.13	7	86	+64
Wanatah	78	38	57	+12	0.48	5	60	1.24	-0.64	8	85	+69
Wheatfield	81	41	59	+13	0.91	5		1.92	+0.04	8	100	+83
Winamac	82	38	59	+11	1.80	5	60	1.92	+0.11	8	107	+84
North Central(2)												
Logansport	80	43	61	+13	2.01	4		2.58	+0.91	7	121	+99
Plymouth	80	39	59	+11	0.50	5		1.78	-0.12	8	98	+71
South_Bend	79	39	58	+11	0.51	4		1.96	+0.02	7	98	+79
Young_America	84	43	62	+14	1.60	4		2.16	+0.49	7	125	+103
Northeast (3)												
Bluffton	83	40	61	+14	1.90	5	58	2.20	+0.35	9	125	+100
Fort_Wayne	80	39	60	+13	1.16	4		2.11	+0.46	8	118	+98
West Central (4)												
Crawfordsville	83	39	63	+13	1.10	4	62	1.86	-0.16	7	138	+98
Perrysville	85	43	64	+15	1.22	4	61	1.47	-0.45	7	151	+118
Terre_Haute_Ag	86	44	65	+14	1.57	5	60	2.04	+0.16	8	178	+133
W_Lafayette_6NW	86	41	62	+14	1.50	3	57	2.27	+0.51	6	125	+101
Central (5)												
Castleton	85	43	65	+15	1.61	4		2.15	+0.36	7	159	+124
Greenfield	83	42	65	+16	1.40	4		1.65	-0.29	7	163	+134
Greensburg	84	44	66	+16	1.68	3		2.25	+0.28	6	172	+136
Indianapolis_AP	84	45	66	+16	1.39	3		1.50	-0.33	5	184	+145
Indianapolis_SE	83	42	65	+15	1.38	3		1.54	-0.25	5	161	+126
Tipton_Ag	84	41	63	+16	2.07	4	59	2.40	+0.48	6	132	+114
East Central (6)												
Farmland	84	39	63	+16	2.22	3	58	2.62	+0.85	5	137	+121
New_Castle	82	40	63	+16	2.52	4		3.30	+1.33	8	129	+111
Southwest (7)												
Dubois_Ag	85	42	70	+17	0.41	2	70	1.16	-0.96	4	218	+160
Evansville	84	47	69	+15	0.39	3		1.29	-0.71	6	229	+150
Freelandville	83	48	67	+16	0.89	3		1.30	-0.55	6	198	+145
Shoals	86	42	68	+16	0.28	2		1.18	-0.84	4	202	+150
Vincennes_5NE	85	45	67	+15	0.31	3	61	1.00	-0.85	5	201	+148
South Central(8)												
Bloomington	84	48	68	+16	0.61	2		0.79	-1.10	3	194	+144
Tell_City	84	48	70	+16	0.00	0		1.15	-1.26	3	224	+154
Southeast (9)												
Scottsburg	84	45	69	+17	0.96	3		1.49	-0.62	6	204	+151

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

CALIBRATE THE PLANTER!

• For air or vacuum planters:

1. Calculate & record the seed weight for each seed lot you intend to plant.
2. Identify & record the correct pressure (air or vacuum) for the calculated seed weight.
3. Identify & record the correct seed disc (or drum) for the calculated seed weight.

• Double-check the operations manual and identify the correct transmission setting for the desired seeding rate.

• Calibrate actual seed drop against ...

1. Planter transmission settings
2. Planter monitor readouts

• Calibrate at normal planting speeds and seeding rates.

1. Calibrate in as close to field conditions as possible.
2. Don't calibrate the planter in the farm lane.

• Calibrate pesticide and fertilizer planter attachments at same time because application rates can easily change from year to year.

• Check that the planter toolbar is parallel to ground when planter is in use because this affects disc opener depth, press wheel efficiency, & seed to soil contact.

Bob Nielsen, Dept of Agronomy, Purdue University.

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